

CFAI / Lincoln Fire and Rescue Department
ANNUAL COMPLIANCE REPORT, 2004

STATEMENT OF FINDINGS

TO: Commission on Fire Accreditation International

FROM: Rob Kinniburgh, Peer Assessment Team Leader

DATE: July 13, 2004

SUBJECT: Review of the annual compliance report for Lincoln Fire and Rescue Department

INTRODUCTION

As the original peer assessment team leader, I reviewed the first annual compliance report (ACR) for the Lincoln Fire and Rescue Department. The purpose of my review was to compare this annual compliance report to the original accreditation report to ascertain the agency's current compliance status. My review included an examination of the current standards, procedures, and practices as they relate to their original established benchmarks as well as evaluating the progress being made toward completing all strategic and specific recommendations.

FINDINGS

Agency Information

All required information was provided and filled out correctly.

The agency has done an exceptionally thorough analysis and documentation of the demographics and economic conditions of the service district and surrounding area, identifying major employers, construction trends, occupancy classification breakdown, and tax and revenue structure. All of these factors affect the quality of life and the economic vitality of the Lincoln metropolitan area and ultimately affect the services provided by the department.

There have been significant command staff personnel changes. Under the direction of Chief Michael Spadt, who served as the fire chief during the initial accreditation site visit, the department has undergone a review of the administrative structure and responsibilities. The resulting changes have made the department's administration more effective to the demands of the department and community. Assistant Chief positions over Administration and Operations have been established; and appropriate subordinate positions reassigned along those two disciplines.

The agency did not utilize the services of any person or consultant to assist with the preparation of the ACR. The department used the sixth edition of the CFAI Self-Assessment Manual to obtain their original accreditation.

Agency / Jurisdiction Description

The Lincoln Fire and Rescue Department services a population of 235,000. 14 fire stations and 296 department members serve the city. All fire companies are staffed with a minimum of four members. All improvements and changes made by the department since the teams on site assessment have maintained or improved the department's accreditation status.

Agency Environmental Changes

Reorganization of the department's administrative structure includes the following:

- Elimination of the EMS Deputy Chief's position, incorporated under Asst Chief of Operations
- Grant award to fund public education specialist.
- Installation of mobile data terminals in fire apparatus.
- Communications infrastructure upgrades.

All of these actions support maintaining their accreditation status.

Changes in Compliance with Legal Requirements in Federal, State, and Local Government(s)

The Agency disclosed all relevant information and, as best as can be determined, is complying with established government standards.

Changes in Compliance with Adopted Community / Agency Standards

The Agency disclosed all relevant information and is complying with established local standards.

Core Competency and Performance Indicator Change Form

The Agency fully completed the core competency portion of the report and disclosed all relevant information.

The Agency remains in compliance with all core competencies. The agency is in a thriving community, which does require continued improvement and change. They are also working toward meeting all requirements in the latest edition of the Self Assessment Manual.

Strategic and Specific Recommendations.

The agency continues to show progress toward addressing the strategic and specific recommendations of the peer assessment team. Following the defeat of a Fire Safety bond initiative, the city has had to reassess its priorities and look for alternatives to enhance service delivery. The department has taken advantage of available grant and matching funding sources to improve service.

Exhibit List

The exhibits submitted supporting their report included updated organizational charts, budget documents, performance measures, and planning documents.

Verification

The Fire Chief signed the annual compliance report.

CONCLUSION

The City of Lincoln is a thriving community requiring continued advancements in public safety services. The fire department's participation in providing and planning for the future needs of the community is to be commended.

The Lincoln Fire and Rescue Department continues to demonstrate that they still are in compliance with stated benchmarks, government standards, local standards and CFAI core competencies. The department is also working toward meeting all applicable core competencies as stated in the sixth edition of the Self Assessment Manual

RECOMMENDATIONS

I recommend that the Commission on Fire Accreditation International accept the Lincoln Fire and Rescue Department's annual compliance report and that the Lincoln Fire and Rescue Department retain their accredited agency status.

Robert D. Kinniburgh
Peer Assessment Team Leader